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## APRIL 2020



### **Under New Law, Medicaid Cannot Be Terminated During The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act bars all Medicaid terminations during the public health emergency caused by COVID-19.

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See The New, 1 Minute Video Introduction To My “Estate and Disability Planning” Video Series

“Estate and Disability Planning” is a [4-part video series](#) presented by [Certified Elder Law Attorney](#) and [Accredited Veterans Attorney](#) Donald D. Vanarelli.

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## **New Jersey Supreme Court Notice – Changes To Guardianship Requirements During COVID-19 Crisis**

The NJ Supreme Court has approved temporary changes to the process for seeking guardianship of the person and/or estate.

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## **Nursing Home Resident Rights Video Series**

This 1 minute video to introduce the Nursing Home Resident Rights Video Series was presented by noted Certified Elder Law Attorney, Donald D. Vanarelli, Esq., as part of The Medical Side of Elder Law Lecture Series.

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## **Medicare is Expanding Telehealth Services During Coronavirus Pandemic**

The federal government is broadly expanding coverage of Medicare telehealth services to beneficiaries and relaxing HIPAA enforcement, which will give doctors the ability to provide more services to patients remotely.

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## **Social Security Shuttles 'Petri Dish' Offices in Response to Coronavirus Outbreak**

To protect its workers and the public during the coronavirus pandemic, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has suspended face-to-face service at its field offices and hearings offices nationwide.

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## Medicare and Medicaid Will Cover Coronavirus Testing

With coronavirus dominating news coverage and creating alarm, it is important to know that Medicare and Medicaid will cover tests for the virus.

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## Staying Connected to Family Members in a Nursing Home When Visits are Banned

The spread of the coronavirus to nursing home residents has caused the federal government to direct nursing homes to restrict visitor access. Families are having to find new ways to stay in touch.

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## How Does Medicaid Treat Income?

The basic Medicaid rule for nursing home residents is that they must pay all of their income, minus certain deductions, to the nursing home.

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## The Trump Administration Allows States to Choose Medicaid Block Grants

The Trump administration will allow states to cap Medicaid spending using block grants. This change could result in significant service cuts.

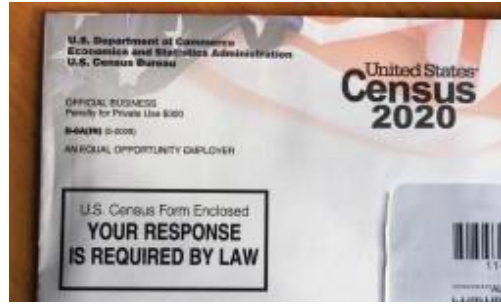
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## How Secure Is Social Security?

According to the federal government, unless Congress acts to intervene, Social Security shortfalls are expected beginning in 2035.

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## Make Sure You Are Counted in the 2020 Census

The 2020 census is starting soon, and seniors need to be counted. This year, for the first time, the census will be completed largely online.

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## Medicare Now Covers Outpatient Treatment for Opioid Addiction

Recognizing the huge problems caused by opioid addiction in the United States, Medicare is adding a new outpatient opioid treatment benefit, paying for methadone and related treatment in certain facilities under Part B.

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## Caregivers Are Getting Younger, Making Planning for Long-Term Care Even More Important

As baby boomers age, more and more millennials are becoming caregivers. Many are taking on this role while just getting started in their own lives, leading to difficult decisions about priorities. Proper planning can help them navigate this terrain.

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Please rate your experience

- Outstanding*
- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Average
- Poor



## Satisfied Clients Are Vital to the Success of Our Law Firm

The Law Office of Donald D. Vanarelli is committed to providing our clients with the highest level of legal service, professionalism, personalized attention, and expertise.

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## Will Restrictive Immigration Policies Cause a Shortage of Caregivers for the Elderly?

As the population ages, the need for caregivers is growing, but restrictive immigration policies, whatever you may think of them, could have a negative impact on a caregiving industry that is already facing workforce shortages.

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## Home Care Costs Rise Sharply

When it comes to long-term care costs, the charges for home care are now rising faster than those for nursing home care, according to Genworth's 2019 Cost of Care survey.

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## IRS Issues Long-Term Care Premium Deductibility Limits for 2020

The IRS has announced the amount taxpayers can deduct from their 2020 income as a result of buying long-term care insurance.

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## The 2020 Social Security Increase Will Be Smaller than 2019's

The Social Security Administration has announced a 1.6 percent increase in benefits in 2020, nearly half of last year's change. The small rise has advocates questioning whether the government is using the proper method to calculate increases. [READ MORE](#)



## What to Do If You Are Appointed Guardian of an Older Adult

Being appointed guardian of a loved one is a serious responsibility. As guardian, you are in charge of your loved one's well-being and you have a duty to act in his or her best interest. [READ MORE](#)



## How to Use a Trust in Medicaid Planning

With careful Medicaid planning, you may be able to preserve some of your estate for your children or other heirs while meeting the Medicaid asset limit. [READ MORE](#)



## Most Are Taking Social Security at the Wrong Time

A new report finds that almost no retirees are making financially optimal decisions about when to take Social Security and are losing out on an average of more than \$100,000 per household in the process. [READ MORE](#)



## Tips for Preventing, Detecting, and Reporting Financial Abuse of the Elderly

Reports of elder financial abuse continue to increase, and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to scams or to financial abuse by family members in need of money.

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## What to Look for When Buying an Annuity

An annuity can be a useful tool for long-term care planning, but annuities are also complex financial products that are hard to understand. If purchasing an annuity, you need to consider your options carefully.

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## Will My Advance Directive Work in Another State?

Make sure your advance directive is valid in your state of residence.

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## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren May Qualify for Tax Credit

Grandparents raising a grandchild may be eligible for a helpful tax credit.

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